

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is provided:

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A packing apparatus, comprising:

a matrix former having a product contact surface pivotable about a first axis between a first position and a second position, wherein said product contact surface faces in a first direction in said first position, and said product contact surface faces in a second direction in said second position;

a platform pivotable about a second axis spaced from said first axis, said platform pivotable between a first position and a second position, wherein said platform faces in a first direction in said first position, and said **platform** ~~product contact surface~~ faces in a second direction in said second position;

a lift cage moveable between and aligned with said platform in said second position and said product contact surface of said matrix former in said first position, said lift cage for moving a box therebetween;

a discharge roller; and

a carriage moveable between and aligned with said product contact surface in said second position and said discharge roller.

9. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said matrix former includes at least one sidewall movable relative to said product contact surface.

10. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, further comprising at least one guide track for guiding the movement of said lift cage between said platform in said second position and said product contact surface in said first position.
11. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a drive belt extending between a first wheel and a second wheel and a drive operably coupled to said drive belt, wherein said lift cage is coupled to said drive belt.
12. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said drive belt is parallel to at least a portion of said at least one guide track.
13. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said lift cage includes first and second side supports, wherein the box is receivable between said side supports.
14. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 13, wherein at least one of said side supports includes moveable plates that engage a side of the box thereby securing the box between said side supports.
15. (previously presented) The packing apparatus of claim 13, wherein at least one of said side supports includes fingers that grip an edge of the box thereby maintaining alignment of the box with said product contact surface in said first position.

16. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said platform includes a gripper for securing the box to said platform.
17. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, further comprising at least one box positioning surface extending outwardly from and perpendicular to said platform.
18. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said platform includes rollers aligned with said second axis.
19. (canceled)
20. (previously presented) The packing apparatus of claim 8, further comprising at least one guide track for guiding the movement of said carriage between said product contact surface in said second position and said discharge roller.
21. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a discharge conveyor for receiving boxes from said discharge roller.
22. (original) The packing apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a feed conveyor for feeding boxes to said platform.
23. (canceled)